



State of California
Respiratory Care Board
444 North 3rd Street, Suite 270
Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone (916) 323-9983
Fax (916) 323-9999
www.rcb.ca.gov



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Inquiry: It is my intention to start a respiratory care business outside a hospital setting. The following are my concerns which I would like to be cleared before I can actually start making any plans: (1) Do we have any state law that allows respiratory therapists to practice respiratory care with a provider number? (2) What are the steps necessary to start a respiratory care business? (3) What kind of procedures are permissible by law?

Response: Provider numbers, current statutes allow for the issuance of a provider number to respiratory care practitioners (RCPs) under the Medi-Cal Program. Specific rules and regulations regarding this matter should be directed to the Department of Health Services, Medi-Cal Benefits Branch.

In regards to the necessary steps required to start a respiratory care business, the Respiratory Care Practice Act (RCPA) does not specifically authorize or prohibit the conduct of private business by licensed RCPs. The applicable laws and regulations are available from various federal, state, and local governments.

Finally, in response to your inquiry regarding the procedures permissible by law, the scope of practice for licensed RCPs is defined in Sections 3702 and 3703 of the RCPA.

Reference # 2000-C-25